

## Disaster warning system for Odisha by March

The Early Warning Dissemination System (EWDS), a project that aims at establishing a fool-proof communication system to disseminate disaster warning up to the community level, is expected to be commissioned by this March.

The EWDS had missed several deadlines before being fast-tracked recently.

“The EWDS is a first-of-its-kind automatic public address system in the country. It will help the State to warn a vast population residing along its coast from the State headquarters through loud sirens from towers installed at 122 locations in the event of occurrence of natural disasters like a tsunami or cyclone,” said Bishnupada Sethi, Managing Director of the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA).

Mr. Sethi, who is also State’s Special Relief Commissioner, reviewed the progress of the EWDS implementation with Additional District Magistrates, Block Development Officers of coastal districts and senior officials so that the State could commission it by March 2018.

The EWDS for last mile connectivity is being implemented under a World Bank project.

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